FREE GUIDE

Arizona special education deadlines

Sources last checked between Nov 16, 2026 and Nov 20, 2026
State rules as of November 20, 2026

RULE	FIRST LINE OF THE RULE	SOURCE
EVALUATIONS		
Responding to an evaluation request	Within a reasonable time, no more than fifteen school days after receiving your written evaluation request, the school must either start by reviewing existing information or give written notice explaining its refusal.	Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-401(E)(4)
Completing an initial evaluation	In Arizona, the school must finish your child's initial evaluation within 60 calendar days after it receives your informed written consent.	A.A.C. R7-2-401(E)(3)–(5)
FIRST IEP MEETING		
The initial IEP after eligibility	Once the team decides your child needs special education and related services, a meeting to write your child's first IEP must be held within 30 calendar days.	34 CFR 300.323(c)(1)
SCHOOL RECORDS		
Timing of access to education records	Arizona follows the federal rule.	34 CFR § 300.613; Arizona IDEA Procedural Safeguards, Access Rights, p. 7
Copies of records, fees and access barriers	Arizona: Copy fees cannot prevent access to education records.	34 CFR § 300.617; Arizona IDEA Procedural Safeguards, Fees, p. 7
IEP REVIEWS AND REEVALUATIONS		
Regular IDEA reevaluation	Your child must be reevaluated at least once every three years, unless you and the school agree it isn't needed.	34 CFR 300.303(a), (b)
Reviewing the IEP at least annually	Your child's IEP team must review the IEP periodically, and at least once a year, to see whether the annual goals are being met.	34 CFR 300.324(b)(1)(i)
TRANSITION PLANNING		
When transition goals and services begin	In Arizona, transition goals and services must be in the IEP by whichever comes first: the first IEP in effect at 16, or your child finishing ninth grade.	A.A.C. R7-2-401(G)(4)(a)
RIGHTS AT ADULTHOOD		
Advance notice about the transfer of IDEA rights	The age of majority is when your child becomes a legal adult under state law.	34 CFR 300.320(c); 300.520(a)–(b)
The state's age of majority and IDEA rights	In Arizona, special education rights under IDEA transfer from you to your child at age 18.	A.R.S. § 15-773(A)–(E)
PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Preschool special education by age three	A school district or charter school may admit an eligible child up to 90 days before the third birthday if that is in the child's best interest, with the same services as for a three-year-old.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-771(G)
Moving from early intervention to preschool	In Arizona, early intervention (AzEIP) holds a transition planning meeting to plan your child's move out of early intervention.	AzEIP Policies and Procedures Manual, Chapter 4: Transition (effective 04/01/2022)
OTHER RULES		
Section 504 protections in school discipline	Federal Section 504 generally requires an evaluation before a significant disciplinary change in placement.	34 CFR § 104.35(a); 29 USC § 705(20)(C)(iv); U.S. Department of Education OCR Section 504 Discipline Guidance (2022), pp. 14–15, 24
Give written notice before moving to a private school	In Arizona, if you plan to move your child to a private school and ask the district to pay, give the district written notice at least 10 business days before your child leaves the public school.	34 C.F.R. §300.148(c)–(e); §300.11(b); Arizona IDEA Procedural Safeguards, private placement, printed p.26 (current-hosted 2025 copy)
IEP services after a move within the state	Arizona (same as the federal rule): When a student with an IEP in effect transfers within the state during the same school year, the new district must provide comparable services while it adopts the existing IEP or develops and implements a new one.	Arizona ADE FAQs: Timelines, transfer-IEP question; 34 CFR § 300.323(e)

Planning aid only. Not legal advice. Confirm the date with the governing source.

Full answers and source links: https://endeavy.com/special-education-deadlines/arizona